

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) applies to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

21ST CENTURY MONTGOMERY GI
BILL ENHANCEMENT ACT
AMENDMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1291, the Veterans' Benefit Act of 2001. This bill contains numerous provisions that will help our nation's veterans obtain greater educational opportunities, it increases the resources available to assist veterans with finding housing, and most importantly, the bill corrects and expands legislation to provide compensation and benefits to veterans who are disabled. I commend the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mr. SMITH from New Jersey, and the ranking member, Mr. EVANS for their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor.

One provision in this that I am personally proud of is section 201, which removes the 30-year time limit for the presumption of service connection of respiratory cancers for Vietnam War veterans. This provision is adapted from H.R. 1587, the Agent Orange Respiratory Cancer Act of 2001, which I introduced and which was cosponsored by 47 of my colleagues.

Agent Orange has rained havoc on the lives of thousands of Vietnam veterans, causing cancer, diabetes, and birth defects. Thankfully, for most veterans suffering from their exposure to this herbicide, benefits were made available. Unfortunately, a seemingly arbitrary 30-year time limit was placed on the presumption of service connection for respiratory cancers—among the most deadly types of cancer. Those veterans who suffered from respiratory cancers that appeared 30 years after their service were denied service connection, and thus benefits and assistance for these diseases. In effect, the U.S. government told them that they were on their own.

In a recent study, the Institute of Medicine stated that there was no evidence that a time limit could be placed on the presumption of service connection, and this bill rightly makes that correction to past law. No longer will veterans who suffer respiratory cancers have to worry about their government forgetting about their service and neglecting their needs. Rare is it that common sense prevails in Congress to help those in greatest need, but I believe that this provision, and this bill, achieve such status. I thank the Veterans Committee Chairman and Ranking Member for their dedicated attention to the plight and troubles of America's veterans, for including the Agent Orange provision in the Veterans Benefits Act of 2001, and for passing this important piece of legislation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my colleagues regarding H.R. 1, No Child Left Behind.

Although we passed this important legislation last week, I must express my reservations about certain language included in the conference report:

The conferees recognize that a quality science education should prepare students to distinguish the data and testable theories of science from the religious or philosophical claims that are made in the name of science. Where topics are taught that may generate controversy (such as biological evolution), the curriculum should help students to understand the full range of scientific views that exist, why such topics may generate controversy, and how scientific discoveries can profoundly affect society.

Outside of the scientific community, the word "theory" is used to refer to a speculation or guess that is based on limited information or knowledge. Among scientists, however, a theory is not a speculation or guess, but a logical explanation of a collection of experimental data. Thus, the theory of evolution is not controversial among scientists. It is an experimentally tested theory that is accepted by an overwhelming majority of scientists, both in the life sciences and the physical sciences.

The implication in this language that there are other scientific alternatives to evolution represents a veiled attempt to introduce creationism—and, thus, religion—into our schools. Why else would the language be included at all? In fact, this objectionable language was written by proponents of an idea known as "intelligent design." This concept, which could also be called "stealth creationism", suggests that the only plausible explanation for complex life forms is design by an intelligent agent. This concept is religion masquerading as science. Scientific concepts can be tested; intelligent design can never be tested. This is not science, and it should not be taught in our public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I am a religious person. I take my religion seriously and feel it deeply. My point here is not to attack or diminish religion in any way. My point is to make clear that religion is not science and science is not religion. The language in this bill can result in diminishing both science and religion.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GUAM WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in February 1952, a group of women set out to establish a non-profit organization designed to help improve the general education, health and welfare of the people of Guam. For the

past five decades the Guam Women's Club, working on its own and with the support of other civic and service organizations, have made great contributions towards the betterment of the island of Guam. The club was taken under the wing of the Federation of Asian Women's Association (FAWA) in 1958. Due mainly to the Guam Women's Club's affiliation, this international organization has since held four conferences on Guam.

Education is one of the Guam Women's Club's paramount concerns. The club has awarded high school, college, and university scholarships since its inception. Since 1991, three full time scholarships have been put in place—awarded annually to deserving students of the University of Guam. To acknowledge the value of the teaching profession and to honor the island's teachers in both public and private schools, the club has held numerous gatherings which came to be known as "Teachers Teas."

The club has also been very active in beautification and facility improvement campaigns. A GWC project in 1954 initiated the establishment of the Guam Museum. GWC was instrumental in the construction of facilities such as the public pool in Hagåtña. The construction of the Padre Palomo Park, for which the club received national recognition, the Lalahita Park overlooking the village on Umatat, and the beautification of San Ramon Hill were made possible through their efforts. The post office petition project they initiated culminated to the opening of a post office in Dededo, the island's most populous village.

Through both individual and group efforts, GWC members have been directly involved with community and civic undertakings. In 1963, the club received national recognition from the General Federation of Women's Clubs for their islandwide clean-up campaign. The GWC Hospital Committee donates an average 150 hours of volunteer work at the Guam Memorial hospital. GWC made significant contributions towards the transition of Guam Youth, Inc. to the Guam Recreation Commission—another project that gained them national recognition.

GWC additionally actively participates and contributes toward several local civic programs and institutions. From support organizations and facilities such as the Alee Shelter, Erica's House, Child Care Co-op, the Guam Lytico and Bodig Association, St. Dominic's Nursing facility and Rainbows for all Children to national organizations such as Crime Stoppers, the Salvation Army, the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the American Cancer Society's Guam Unit, the range of GWC's efforts and interest seems boundless. GWC is a great contributor to holiday projects such as Sugar Plum Tree and the annual Air Force Christmas Drop to sparsely populated outlying islands. A benefactor of the Guam Symphony Society, GWC is also a major contributor to the local public broadcasting stations KPRG and KGTF.

As the Guam Women's Club—the island's oldest women's club—celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the organization and its members. For 50 years, GWC has made substantial contributions toward the transformation of Guam and its people. I am confident that the island of Guam will continue to reap the benefits of GWC's endeavors for many more years to come.